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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1928

The burglar was ransacking the home of the farmer in the west when the farmer came in and asked for an explanation concerning the intrusion, and the burglar said he was hunting for money. The farmer told him to continue his search and that he should receive ten per cent commission on all that he found.

I have recently learned that there is great distress among the farmers generally owing to the increase of manufactured goods, the cost of labor and the relative low cost of farm products, especially wheat, and other staples. It seems that agriculture has reached its highest point of efficiency and its lowest point financially, an anomalous situation never before known under the sun.

The learned lexicographers interpret the words of Hoover when he says that there are too many farmers, that either the surplus will have to die or go into exile. And that is not the kind of relief that they want.

And shall the farmer die? And shall the farmer die? There're twenty million old-hoppers who will know the reason why. And another old favorite comes to my mind: "The western farmer sits on the fence, to wreck the machine with a monkey wrench."

It is the unusual and unexpected that happens. Up from the side-walks of New York, comes the champion of the farmers. Help always comes from the source least expected.

Hoover so far has not heeded the lion in his den, his dog-out, or his fall. He soothes them with honeyed words. He tells them that during the past eight years that all has been done for them that could be done by experienced and steady statesmen.

And when the farmer is asked to tell what the Republican party has done for him, many of them are of the opinion that they have done high ruined him. Hoover's explanation reminds me a good deal of a story I saw in that ungodly American Mercury, a kind of a quick-silver paper, that fears neither God nor man nor the postoffice department. It was about an old country doctor who excelled in getting blood out of a turnip and collecting his bills from the farmers.

Now, now Honey, don't take on so about it. I did the best I could under the circumstances, best for you and best for me. Now do not think this is a political question for I do not write political trash, or what you may call it.

When the Democrats endorsed the principles of the McNary-Haugen bill it did not create much excitement. The people of this country do not pay much attention to campaign promises years ago they described a platform as something to get in on.

They waited for what Governor Smith had to say about it. And still deferred judgment, for they wanted to know what Senator George Norris of Nebraska, said about Smith's position, for they had a great deal of confidence in him. He has proved to be a sort of a diamond in the rough and is being known far and wide as the wise man. The following is from an Associated Press dispatch, a news gathering agency that is able to maintain neutrality in a troubled world:

Washington, Sept. 28.—Governor Smith's views on farm relief as given last night at St. Paul were endorsed again today by Senator Norris, Nebraska. "I don't see how any man who backs up the McNary-Haugen bill can find fault with governor Smith," he said, contending the principle behind the equalization fee machinery was that the cost of selling surplus at a loss "on the other side of the tariff wall" should be assessed against the crop benefited.

That principle was endorsed emphatically by Smith, both at Omaha and St. Paul," the Senator continued, "and he has promised to call a commission to consider better machinery for operating the principle. I say God bless him and make him go ahead with his commission, if it can improve the machinery of the McNary-Haugen bill, I take off my hat to him. I assume the equalization fee will be accepted if nothing better can be found."

But to tell the truth about it I considered Raskob's statement as having a clear ring when he said that it was possible to bring relief to the farmers and enable them to prosper, and that when this was done that it would create a market for manufactured articles for there would be an immense buying power when the farmers had the money to buy with, or words to that effect. That this was the market to look to rather than to the export trade. And it stands to reason that we cannot hope for much in trade abroad.

I have planted Apples watered; but God gave the increase. This question of farm relief was a

very live matter in the early days of Virginia, when it was found necessary to regulate the main money crop of the colony, tobacco.

Finding that the planters were at the mercy of the export trade and that they were suffering from competition in Maryland and Carolina, the political economists attacked the knotty subject and got a good deal accomplished by the House of Burgesses and by the Parliament of England.

All tobacco imported from Carolina or other parts without the Capes to be here laid ashore, sold, or shipped, shall be forfeited, one half to the government and one half to the importer. Act of 1705. In 1726, the penalty was extended to include any person receiving such tobacco shall be fined ten pounds in current money.

In 1734 an act was passed making it illegal to export tobacco, by land or water into either North Carolina or Maryland, without due entry in custom house and a permit legally obtained.

Obligations were given to be paid in tobacco in many cases, and after a time public revenues were paid in tobacco after the system got ironed out and was working smoothly. A great many laws safeguarding the business were passed. The tobacco was legal tender in the form of warehouse receipts. The hogheads were not to contain less than eight hundred pounds.

One of the first precautions was with the cooper. A legal hoghead was made of staves exactly 48 inches in length, and at least a third of an inch in thickness on the thinnest edge, and the side of the head on the inside to be thirty inches and no more. Every cooper was required to take an oath before a justice that every hoghead made by him should not exceed the legal size, be marked with his initials and with the exact weight burned on the head. For failure to comply the fine was five hundred pounds of tobacco for each illegal hoghead. In the market the seller received thirty pounds of tobacco for the container.

Five pounds allowed in each hoghead to cover loss from sand, dirt, or mean tobacco. Those of us who have suffered from mean tobacco applaud that law.

Any person selling any hoghead deceitfully packed by putting therein any stones, or intermingling therein with any dirt, sand, tobacco stalks, second, ground leaves, or other trash whatsoever, was to be fined for every hoghead one thousand pounds of tobacco.

To guard against seconds, suckers, and slips of tobacco every farmer was required within twenty days after the cutting of the plant to destroy the rest of the growth including roots under a heavy penalty and if it was not so attended to by the owner, the constable was required to uproot and burn the residue, and for this duty he was required to take a special oath of office that he would view all tobacco fields and attend to this duty, and that he would give information against the guilty persons.

The tobacco was delivered to government warehouses and inspectors' notes or receipts taken which passed current and permit the tobacco to be shipped to England. There it was subject to an import duty, which was remitted in all cases where the goods were reshipped to the Continent.

Ware house notes were currency in certain counties, only in certain instances. Prince William county notes were good in every county except Orange. Conway's warehouse notes would pass in Spotsylvania, Turkey Island warehouse notes passed in Charles City county, Turkey Island, Col. Bolling, John Bolling, and Warwick, each had a public ware house for tobacco. Here were the halls of my ancestors who seemed to be in the tobacco business.

In all there is a considerable code of laws regulating the tobacco crop and it was sufficient to bring great contentment and prosperity, and glory to the colony. Incident to the business the planters cared for and educated and civilized a great, slave population which in due time became free men and which play such a great part in the history of the United States, and who dwell in such peace and harmony with the white race in America. No where on earth is there such mutual esteem and mutual dependence between races of people.

In reviewing the noble experiment in regard to the agriculture of Virginia, it should be remembered that in addition to the local problems, the mother country of England had petitioned to pass laws that would make the laws of Virginia effective. For one thing, the dealers in the old country had a way of charging everything the traffic would bear. They were not quite as greedy as the modern middleman or profiteer is in regard to the marketing of the staples produced on the farms. All the London merchants wanted was all the profits and then some.

Perry & Lane was a great firm in London. They had the confidence of many Virginia exporters of tobacco. They were bankers for William & Mary college. When a Virginia youth had to go to England to complete his education, he reported to Perry & Lane. But they got to be a little too exacting and in the seventeen thirties some signs of unrest were noticed in Virginia. Alderman Perry got on the nerve of some of the planters. In 1736, William Byrd leaves word that

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he sold off land and negroes to stay the stomach of that hungry magistrate and declared that he would rather incumode himself a little than to continue in the grip of that insurer.

In 1729, England passed a law prohibiting the importation in to England of any tobacco that had been stripped from the stalk. This was very much in the way of the planters and packers in Virginia and added much to the cost and impaired the quality of the staple. To get rid of this, Virginia sent Sir John Randolph, an able lawyer, as a special agent to England who succeeded in getting the law repealed, and who also got some favorable action for William & Mary College. He returned in great favor and the Assembly paid him a fee of a thousand pounds.

In 1732, he was sent back with a petition entitled the Case of the Planters of Tobacco in Virginia, which was meant to decrease the numerous charges and exactions by the merchants in London. A bill was introduced but failed on account of the opposition by the merchants of London. While there Randolph wrote a long brief calling attention to the frauds and overcharges by the London merchants. It was a kind of a warning not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg, and warned the Parliament, that if they did not bring relief to Virginia, that the men who lived there instead of remaining the best customers that England had, would be forced to turn to manufacturing their own articles of commerce. And in doing so he done spoke a parable, as the old mountain man remarked.

This spoke my uncle John in the year 1732, Sir Robert Walpole fathered the Virginia bill but the London lobby was too strong for him. Alderman Perry led the opposition. Then followed the committee of 21. Perry thought that he had Walpole on the run and introduced the bill to name the committee to inquire into the frauds, but Walpole beat him to the extent that Walpole named the committee. One of the frauds alleged was that the gross produce tax on tobacco was over seven hundred thousand pounds in current money, and the net income to the government one hundred and sixty-one thousand pounds. For his second trip Randolph was awarded a fee of twenty-two hundred pounds in money. The case of the planters failed, but the law of the colony succeeded, and no further effort was made to get relief in England.

It was Raskob's remark to the effect that the country needed the trade of the farmer for a market for manufactured articles, that caused me to knock the dust off of several books, and hunt up the prediction of Sir John Randolph, in regard to the difference between having a planter of Virginia as a customer rather than as a competitor. It has all come true and London and other trade centers in England have lost in every contest. What cannot be made in America is not worth worrying about. The same sort of thing was voiced by Benjamin Franklin before the Declaration of Independence. One statesman in England allowed that the people of the New World could never make cloth. That they would have to import it. Franklin told them that we would set up a loom in every house if necessary, and lived to see his prophecy come true.

The rural sections have already started to make their own goods. Within the last ten years the custom has taken a backward turn and if it keeps up we will in time be making our cloth, shoes, sugar, soap, and the most important articles. It is up to the manufacturing cities to allow the farmer to continue in his specialties and broaden and enrich trade by his purchases. And even if he does not set up his own shops and continues as he is, you will all agree that a bare-footed farmer does not help the shoe trade very much.

The reader will remember that a few years ago what we know as the 23rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 1928, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, on the premises near Jacob, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, all of the personal property belonging to said estate consisting of the following articles to-wit:

47 ewes, 1 buck, 4 cows, 3 calves, 1 bull (Hereford), 1 sow, 5 shoats, 3 turkey hens, 1 gobbler, 40 chickens, some young chickens and turkeys, 1 cultivator, 5 pitchforks, 1 topping fork, 60 rods of wire fence, grindstone posthole digger, 1 iron kettle, 2 brass kettles, 1 copper kettle, 106 glass jars lot of stone jars, 1 falling leaf table lot of cooking utensils, 1 cook range, 1 cupboard, lot of wire, lot of dishes, 1 wash, 1 trunk, 1 shod gun, 1 stand table, 4 lamps, 1 mirror, 2 bureaus, 2 rockers, 6 dining chairs, 2 heating stoves, 1 clock, 1 chest, 1 iron bedstead, 4 wood beds, 3 quilts, 3 counterpanes, 3 comforters, 3 coverlets, 3 bed blankets, 5 bed sheets, 18 pillow cases, 9 feather pillows, 5 feather beds, 5 straw ticks, lot of hay in stack and in barn, lot of corn in shock and in fodder, lot of potatoes, and many other small things usually found on a farm too numerous to mention. All of the things that will be offered for sale are in first class condition and nothing shabby or cheap. The livestock is well bred and in good healthy condition.

The sale will begin at 10 o'clock in the morning.

TERMS OF SALE All amounts of ten dollars and under will be cash on day of sale. All amounts over ten dollars are the purchaser may execute a note due four months after date with interest from date, and with good personal endorsement in the judgement of the executor.

T. S. McNEEL, Executor.

Notice We have just brought in out of the range 100 head of good ewes for sale; from 1 to 6 years old; price \$15 per head. This is a fine bunch of ewes. We sell from 50 to 100 head every year and keep all our ewe lambs so if any one wants a good bunch of ewes, come quick. We have had several inquiries but was not able to get the ewes until now. The ewes are healthy and in good condition. L. D. SHARP, Shaty Fork, W. Va.

Grimes Golden Apples For sale a carload applied, sprayed, hand picked and graded. Place your order early. Fred Gehauf

Teaberry Leaves Wanted by P. C. CURRY, Marlinton, W. Va.

Notice Not trespassing allowed on my land by hunting or trapping Anyone disregarding this notice will be prosecuted. F. L. Carls, Millpoint, W. Va.

New Honey Comb and extracted Quality pure unad. 10 lb can extracted \$2.15 delivered; 10 lb comb \$3.05 delivered by parcel post; cash with order. 60 lb can extracted by express \$5.70 purchaser to pay express. John A. Sheehan, R. 4, Palmouth, Ky.

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gasoline tax was considered impossible by those who were on wisdom that is past, and totter on in error to the last. But that great revenue proved to be the most important and the least painful of all great revenue measures. If some similar automatic and inexpensive plan can be agreed upon by our masters in Congress, there is no reason why the farmer should not have the benefit of it. The plan is to make it come off of the staple, say wheat, or whatever export has a surplus to be consumed in an impoverished foreign market. That sounds very good, but it will work out like all other taxes and be felt by the consumer. As it should be, it will be far, far better to dump the surplus on the foreign market however cheap it may be, than to burn it up like the Virginians did their surplus tobacco.

NOTICE To Tax Payers

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Sheriff of Pocahontas county will attend in person or by deputy at the following times and places for the purpose of collecting taxes.

Table with columns for District (GREENBANK, EDWAY, HUNTERSVILLE, LITTLE LEVELS), Location, and Date/Time.

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With the exception of dates listed above, books will be found at the following places: Greenbank—J. C. Wooddell's, Greenbank; Edray—In Office, Marlinton; Huntersville—W. H. Barlow's Huntersville; Little Levels—T. A. Bruffey's Hillsboro.

A discount of 2 1-2 per cent will be made to all persons who pay their taxes on or before the 30th day of November, 1928. Interest at the rate of 10 percent will be added there to from the first day of January, 1929, until payment.

W. H. Barlow, S. P. C.

Sale of Personal Property

By virtue of authority vested in me as Executor of the last will and testament of MacLison S. Woods, deceased, I will on the

23rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 1928, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, on the premises near Jacob, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, all of the personal property belonging to said estate consisting of the following articles to-wit:

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Our Guaranteed Paint is a combination of the best and purest materials of which Paint can be made, and for durability and covering qualities, we guarantee it superior to any made.

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5 percent Farm Loans The Federal Land Bank OF BALTIMORE has lowered its interest rate on new loans to 5 percent. The lowest rate ever offered farmers of this community. A long time, easy payment, profit sharing, cooperative system. Consult P. T. Ward, Secretary-Treasurer. POCAHONTAS COUNTY NATIONAL FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION

Special Tax Notice Due to the fact that we have been unable to hold over certain State funds that we have been holding up in former years, there are no funds available to pay the teachers of the county the first month's salary.

To offset this we have made a special effort to get the tax tickets made up early. They are now ready for collection. Any taxpayer who has put by a sum to take of taxes, can help out this situation by taking up his ticket in October.

W. H. BARLOW, SHERIFF By C. C. Clendenen, Office Deputy.

For Sale One Ross planer, 24 inch surface and mauler; 6 rolls; equipped with cuts for all kinds of work. Also a 12x24 Happy Farmer tractor; bargain for quick sale. O. E. Gum, Huntersville, W. Va.

PIANO CULTURE I shall resume my classes in piano the week beginning September 10. All those who wish to study please notify me. MISS MARY FRANCES BRATTON Marlinton, W. Va.

ROOMERS WANTED—I am prepared to room six boys; Personal supervision—Mrs. W. A. Bratton, Marlinton, W. Va.

APPLES FOR SALE—Quick, fine orchard 17 miles east of Clifton Forge on Cow Pasture River. Some 1000 to 1200 bushels of apples, mostly Stayman Winesap. Call at orchard with James O. Wood, Nimrod Hill, Virginia.

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